

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4233

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 1404

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ET, SU, US
SUBJECT: USG ACTIONS IN AID FIELD TO FULFILL POLICY
OBJECTIVES RE SUDAN

REF: STATE 091555

1. SUMMARY. IN EFFORT MAKE USG/SUDAN RELATIONS CLOSER
AND WARMER AS RECOMMENDED BY POLICY REVIEW COMMITTEE ON
HORN, GREATER USE SHOULD BE MADE OF OUR ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE TOOL. SPECIFIC PROJECT IDEAS FOR MOVING
MORE SIGNIFICANTLY AND RAPIDLY IN THIS AREA ARE
SUGGESTED IN THIS MESSAGE. POINT WOULD BE NOT ONLY TO
ACHIEVE ADDITIONAL IMPACT THROUGH MAJOR HELP TO ONE OF
WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES BUT ALSO TO SEEK TAKE
ADVANTAGE SUDAN'S VAST AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL TO HELP
MEET WORLD FOOD CRISIS FORECAST FOR MID-EIGHTIES.
END SUMMARY.

2. MOST GRATEFUL CONFIRMATION REFTEL THAT OUR
POLICY OF ESTABLISHING EVEN CLOSER AND WARMER
RELATIONS WITH SUDAN IS TO BE BROADLY BASED AND
INCLUDE SPECIFIC ACTIONS IN AID FIELD. WE HAVE
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ALREADY BEGUN ACTION TO IMPLEMENT MODEST RESUMED
AID PROGRAM BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOWED BY MULTIFARIOUS
AID REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITY WHICH HAS HAD TO
BE GIVEN TO AID OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IF
AID PROGRAM IN SUDAN IS TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBU-
TION TO IMPROVING OUR OVER-ALL RELATIONSHIPS, IT
SHOULD IN MY JUDGMENT BE IMPLEMENTED FASTER AND OVER

WIDER AREA THAN NOW CONTEMPLATED. MY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO HOW THIS MIGHT BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED ARE SET OUT IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER OF PRIORITY.

3. TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: TEAM NOW HERE IS RECOMMENDING ONE SMALL PROJECT IN BLUE NILE, ONE IN WEST AND EVEN MORE MODEST ONE IN SOUTHERN REGION. THIS PROSPECT HAS ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED BY SUDANESE OFFICIALS AS INADEQUATE, SINCE ITS IMPACT ON OVER-ALL SUDANESE DEVELOPMENT LIKELY BE MINIMAL. HOWEVER, IF THE NUMBERS OF THESE PROJECTS COULD BE INCREASED, REAL IMPACT WOULD BE MADE. SPECIFICALLY, PROPOSED BLUE NILE SEMI-MECHANIZATION SCHEME, INVOLVING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMODITY SUPPORT FOR 50-FAMILY FARMER COOPERATIVE, COULD WELL BE MULTIPLIED BY IDENTICAL SCHEMES IN SIMILAR AGRICULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS. I WOULD RECOMMEND WE SEEK IMPLEMENT AT LEAST FIVE, SEVERAL IN SOUTHERN REGION, AS MEANS DEMONSTRATING OUR COMMITMENT TO OPTIMIZATION SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL.

4. SIMILARLY, SINGLE PROJECT IN WEST TO HALT LAND DEGRADATION IN SMALL AREA, BUILD ADDITIONAL WATER POINTS AND THUS INDUCE FARM POPULATION TO SPREAD OUT OVER SUDAN'S UNUSED PLATEAU AREAS TO REDUCE DANGEROUS DESERT CREEP, COULD WELL BE APPLIED TO MANY OTHER WESTERN LOCALITIES. WERE WE ABLE PERFORM THIS USEFUL WORK AT FIVE-TEN SITES, INSTEAD OF JUST ONE,
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WE WOULD BE MAKING MORE THAN TOKEN CONTRIBUTION TO HALTING STEADY EROSION OF SUDAN'S EXCELLENT AGRICULTURAL LAND.

5. MODERN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: SURVEY TEAM IS EXPECTED HERE EARLY JUNE TO CONSIDER MODEST ASSISTANCE IN THIS FIELD, NOTABLY IN AREA TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. I RECOMMEND PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO ESTABLISHMENT BLOCK GRANT OF FIVE MILLION DOLLARS, TO BE DISBURSED OVER THREE-YEAR PERIOD, TO ASSIST SUDAN GOVT IN CONTINUING MOVE ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FORWARD DESPITE CURRENT ENDEMIC SHORTAGES FOREIGN EXCHANGE. ONE PROJECT IN ENERGY AREA, SUPPORTED BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (NAS), DESERVES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. IT IS ENTIRELY FEASIBLE TECHNICALLY TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY FROM WATER HYACINTH WEED WHICH GROWS IN PROFUSION ALONG UPPER REACHES WHITE NILE. ONE PILOT METHANE GENERATOR ALREADY TESTED BY WEST GERMAN WEED CONTROL

PROJECT. MINISTER INDUSTRY ABDALLA (WHO CONCURRENTLY SERVING AS POLITICAL SUPERVISOR UPPER NILE PROVINCE) EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST TO ME A FEW WEEKS AGO IN POSSIBILITY INCREASING PITIFULLY SMALL ELECTRIC POWER POTENTIAL ALONG UPPER NILE BY DEVELOPING THIS RESOURCE. HE NOTED PARTICULARLY THAT ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT WOULD RELIEVE SUDANESE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES OF TREMENDOUS BURDEN OF SEEKING MOVE INCREASING QUANTITIES DIESEL INTO THESE REMOTE AREAS. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND ANY BLOCK GRANT IN THIS FIELD INCLUDE SUBSTANTIAL COMMODITY COMPONENT, ALONG OTHER THINGS TO PERMIT ACQUISITION SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS SMALL METHANE GAS GENERATORS WHICH COULD RAPIDLY TRANSFORM ENERGY PICTURE UPPER NILE WITHOUT INCREASED POLLUTION OR DEPLETION NON-RENEWABLE MINERAL RESOURCES. BLOCK GRANT SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOR CONSULTANT SERVICES WHICH BADLY NEEDED HERE TO PREPARE SPECIFIC DEVELOP-
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MENT PROPOSALS ON WHICH SUDAN GOVT MIGHT WELL THEN OBTAIN ARAB FINANCING WITH PROSPECT EXECUTION BY PRIVATE U.S. FIRMS.

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6. WHILE ABOVE PROJECTS WOULD MAKE MAJOR IMPACT AMONG RURAL POOR, SUDAN GOVT ALSO DEEPLY INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING SUPPORT FACILITIES TO UNDERLINE ITS MAJOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS. I THEREFORE

RECOMMEND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMODITY SUPPORT BE PROVIDED TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO STRENGTHEN THAT MINISTRY'S CENTRAL AND REGIONAL FACILITIES FOCUSED ON TRADITIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT UNDER NEW 6-YEAR PLAN. SUCH ASSISTANCE WOULD INCLUDE, AS EXAMPLES, SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH, COOPERATIVES AND EXTENSION WORK NOW BEING DONE BY LIMITED NUMBER HIGHLY TRAINED MINYAG EXPERTS. THIS TYPE ASSISTANCE SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY NEW MINAG ABDALLA WHO HAS PHD IN HORTICULTURE FROM CALIFORNIA AND IS HARD-DRIVING TECHNICIAN WHO CAN GET THINGS DONE. WE COULD THUS EXPECT ANY SUCH MAJOR SUPPORT TO BE WELL AND FULLY UTILIZED.

7. TECHNICAL TRAINING: WE HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED MODEST MANPOWER TRAINING PROJECT, USING REGIONAL FUNDING. THIS HAS BEEN WELCOMED AND MORE COULD WELL BE DONE IN THIS KEY FIELD. GRADUATE TRAINING IN TECHNICAL FIELDS IN U.S. SPECIALIZED INSTITUTIONS URGENTLY NEEDED IF SUDANESE ARE TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES NOW UNDERWAY OR PLANNED. AT LEAST
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ONE MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY COULD BE READILY ABSORBED BY THIS ACTIVITY, AND I RECOMMEND BLOCK GRANT OF THIS MAGNITUDE BE ESTABLISHED PROMPTLY.

8. NEED PRIORITY ATTENTION: WITH SLIPPAGE IN ARRIVAL TECHNICAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TEAM, IT BY NO MEANS CERTAIN PROJECT FUNDS CAN BE OBLIGATED FOR WORK IN SUDAN THIS FISCAL YEAR. I RECOMMEND SUFFICIENT PRIORITY BE GIVEN THIS OBJECTIVE BY AID/WASHINGTON TO ASSURE THAT SIGNIFICANT FUNDS ARE OBLIGATED IN FY-77. ALSO URGE THERE BE NO FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN ARRIVAL HEALTH, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT TEAMS SCHEDULED HERE BEGINNING EARLY JUNE.

9. CONCLUSION: FOREGOING RESPONSE REFTEL IS NOT MEANT TO IMPLY THAT NOTHING HAS SO FAR BEEN DONE NOR THAT ALL OF ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IF WE ARE SIGNIFICANTLY TO WARM OUR BILATERAL TIES USING AID TOOL. FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT NIMEIRI IS ALREADY UNDER SOME CRITICISM FOR ALLEGED PAUCITY RESULTS HIS U.S. TRIP LAST SUMMER. SUDAN GOVT MEDIA TREATMENT AT THAT TIME SIGNIFICANTLY RAISED EXPECTATIONS HERE WHICH ARE NOW NOT RPT NOT BEING SATISFIED. ADDITIONALLY, SUDAN'S VAST POTENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (200 MILLION ACRES UNUSED ARABLE LAND, NINETY PERCENT RAIN-FED) MAKES IT ONE OF TWO OR THREE REMAINING AREAS IN THE WORLD WHICH MAY HOLD KEY TO RESOLVING

MAJOR WORLD FOOD CRISIS FEARED BY 1985. IF USG IS
SERIOUS IN ITS EFFORTS TO LICK THIS PROBLEM, MAJOR USG
SUPPORT TO SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD
APPEAR MANDATORY. FOR ALL FOREGOING REASONS, BELIEVE
SUBSTANTIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WOULD MAKE SIGNIFICANT
CONTRIBUTION TO MEETING USG INTERESTS IN THIS STRATEGIC
COUNTRY IN THE YEARS AHEAD. WILL BE HAPPY DISCUSS DETAILS
ON MY RETURN WASHINGTON MID-MAY.

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Message Attributes

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